

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:L/PM:M J MATHESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081738

FOR ALDRICH, LOS DELEGATION

FOL USNATO 03200 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF BONN LONDON  
MAR 29, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM

SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN LAW IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT:  
PROTOCOLS TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

REFS: (A) USNATO 3082, (B) STATE 50654

1. AT MARCH 28 POLADS MEETING, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT  
POLADS MOVE AHEAD ON PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS GROUP MEETING BASED ON UK  
PROPOSAL REF A. POLADS COULD CONSIDER AT LATER TIME  
QUESTION OF PRACTICAL MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF PROTOCOLS,  
INCLUDING IMS SUGGESTION OF A STANAG (PARA 3 REF A),  
AFTER SUBMISSION OF FRG PROPOSAL ON THIS SUBJECT.  
CHAIRMAN PROPOSED A TIMETABLE CALLING FOR NATIONAL  
CONTRIBUTIONS BY END OF MAY WHICH WOULD FORM BASIS FOR  
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WORK AT 2-3 DAY POLITICAL/LEGAL EXPERTS MEETING IN THE  
SECOND HALF OF JUNE.

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2. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT BELGIAN ANALYSIS OF THE  
PROTOCOLS (PARA 5 REF A) COULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR  
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. UK REP NOTED THAT  
HE WOULD SUBMIT A DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH COULD

SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR THE LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS MEETING.

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3. US REP DREW AGAIN ON GUIDANCE IN REF B, NOTING US WILLINGNESS TO STUDY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AND CONSULT THROUGH POLADS, AND EMPHASIZING US PREFERENCE TO DEFER ESTABLISHING ANY WORKING GROUP OR HOLDING EXPERTS MEETING UNTIL JUNE, WHEN WASHINGTON WILL START PREPARATIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROTOCOLS TO THE SENATE.

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4. COMMENT: WE CAN CONTINUE TO STAND ON GUIDANCE REF B, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO PROVIDE ON UK PROPOSAL AND ON SCENARIO FOR EXPERTS MEETING SUGGESTED BY POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. BENNETT UNQUOTE COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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